

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 17-0358.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL 17-1276

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lontine,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Gardner,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN RESTRAINTS UPON**
102 **PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

With certain exceptions, the bill prohibits the use of a chemical, mechanical, or prone restraint upon a public school student. Each school district and the state charter school institute are required to report annually each documented use of restraint to the department of education.

The bill requires the state board of education to promulgate rules on or before November 1, 2017, establishing a process by which a student

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

or a parent or legal guardian of a student may formally complain about the use of restraint or seclusion by any employee or volunteer of any school, charter school, or institute charter school.

The bill requires each school district and the state charter school institute to include in its conduct and discipline code information concerning the school district's or institute's policies for the use of restraint and seclusion on students, including information concerning the process for filing a complaint regarding the use of restraint or seclusion.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Current law restricts the circumstances under which a public
5 agency may use restraints on an individual;

6 (b) Children are more vulnerable and impressionable than adults,
7 and it is wholly reasonable that our safeguards to protect the integrity and
8 sanctity of their bodies should be at least equal to those safeguards that
9 we afford to other persons; and

10 (c) The use of certain restraints on public school students should
11 be prohibited except when exigent circumstances exist.

12 (2) Now, therefore, the general assembly declares that:

13 (a) The use of a chemical, mechanical, or prone restraint upon a
14 student of a school of a school district, charter school of a school district,
15 or institute charter school is generally prohibited; and

16 (b) Notwithstanding this general prohibition, the prohibition does
17 not apply to:

18 (I) The use of a mechanical or prone restraint on a student who is
19 openly displaying a deadly weapon, including any device, instrument,
20 material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, that, in the manner
21 it is used or intended to be used, is capable of producing death or serious

1 bodily injury; or

2 (II) The use of mechanical or prone restraints by an armed security
3 officer working in a school of a school district, charter school of a school
4 district, or institute charter school when the officer satisfies certain
5 conditions.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-20-111 as
7 follows:

8 **26-20-111. Use of restraints in public schools - certain**
9 **restraints prohibited.** (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED OTHERWISE IN THIS
10 SECTION, AND NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE
11 20, THE USE OF A CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, OR PRONE RESTRAINT UPON A
12 STUDENT OF A SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL OF A
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL IS PROHIBITED WHEN
14 THE STUDENT IS ON THE PROPERTY OF ANY AGENCY OR IS PARTICIPATING
15 IN AN OFF-CAMPUS, SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITY OR EVENT.

16 (2) THE PROHIBITION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
17 SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF MECHANICAL OR PRONE
18 RESTRAINTS ON A STUDENT OF A SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER
19 SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL WHO IS
20 OPENLY DISPLAYING A DEADLY WEAPON, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-1-901
21 (3)(e).

22 (3) THE PROHIBITION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
23 SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF MECHANICAL OR PRONE
24 RESTRAINTS BY AN ARMED SECURITY OFFICER WORKING IN A SCHOOL OF
25 A SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR
26 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL WHEN THE OFFICER:

27 (a) HAS RECEIVED DOCUMENTED TRAINING IN DEFENSIVE TACTICS

1 UTILIZING HANDCUFFING PROCEDURES;
2 (b) HAS RECEIVED DOCUMENTED TRAINING IN RESTRAINT TACTICS
3 UTILIZING PRONE HOLDS; AND
4 (c) HAS MADE A REFERRAL TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.
5 (4) THE PROHIBITION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
6 SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO SCHOOLS OPERATED IN STATE-OWNED
7 FACILITIES WITHIN THE DIVISION OF YOUTH CORRECTIONS.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-20-102, **amend**
9 the introductory portion, (1)(a)(II), (1)(a)(III), and (6)(c); and **add**
10 (1)(a)(VI), (5.3), and (5.5) as follows:

11 **26-20-102. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 20, unless
12 the context otherwise requires:

- 13 (1) (a) "Agency" means:
 - 14 (II) Any county, city and county, municipality, ~~school district~~, or
15 other political subdivision of the state or any department, division,
16 section, unit, office, or agency of such county, city and county,
17 municipality, ~~school district~~, or other political subdivision of the state;
 - 18 (III) Any public or private entity that has entered into a contract
19 for services with an entity described in ~~subparagraph (I) or (II) of this~~
20 ~~paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a)(I), (1)(a)(II), OR (1)(a)(VI) OF THIS
21 SECTION;
 - 22 (VI) ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT, INCLUDING ANY SCHOOL OR CHARTER
23 SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL
24 INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-30.5-503, INCLUDING ANY
25 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL.

26 (5.3) "PRONE POSITION" MEANS A FACE-DOWN POSITION.
27 (5.5) "PRONE RESTRAINT" MEANS A RESTRAINT IN WHICH THE

1 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BEING RESTRAINED IS SECURED IN A PRONE POSITION.

2 (6) "Restraint" means any method or device used to involuntarily
3 limit freedom of movement, including bodily physical force, mechanical
4 devices, or chemicals. "Restraint" includes chemical restraint, mechanical
5 restraint, and physical restraint. "Restraint" does not include:

6 (c) The holding of an individual for less than five minutes by a
7 staff person for protection of the individual or other persons; EXCEPT
8 THAT NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (6)(c) MAY BE INTERPRETED TO
9 PERMIT THE HOLDING OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT IN A PRONE POSITION,
10 EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-20-111 (2), (3), OR (4); or

11 [REDACTED]

12 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-32-147** as
13 follows:

14 **22-32-147. Use of restraints on students - certain restraints**
15 **prohibited - reports and review process - definitions - rules.** (1) AS
16 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

17 (a) "CHEMICAL RESTRAINT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH
18 IN SECTION 26-20-102 (2).

19 (b) "MECHANICAL RESTRAINT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
20 FORTH IN SECTION 26-20-102 (4).

21 (c) "PRONE POSITION" MEANS A FACE-DOWN POSITION.

22 (d) "PRONE RESTRAINT" MEANS A RESTRAINT IN WHICH THE
23 INDIVIDUAL BEING RESTRAINED IS SECURED IN A PRONE POSITION.

24 (e) "RESTRAINT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN
25 SECTION 26-20-102 (6).

26 (2) [REDACTED] PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-20-111, THE USE OF A
27 CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, OR PRONE RESTRAINT UPON A STUDENT IN A

1 SCHOOL OR CHARTER SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF
2 COOPERATIVE SERVICES IS PROHIBITED.

3 (3) (a) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, EACH
4 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL REQUIRE ANY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER
5 WHO USES ANY TYPE OF RESTRAINT ON A STUDENT OF THE SCHOOL
6 DISTRICT TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT OF THE INCIDENT TO THE
7 ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL NOT LATER THAN ONE SCHOOL DAY
8 AFTER THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

9 (b) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, EACH
10 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ESTABLISH A REVIEW PROCESS, CONDUCT THE
11 REVIEW PROCESS AT LEAST ANNUALLY, AND DOCUMENT THE RESULTS OF
12 EACH REVIEW PROCESS IN WRITING. EACH ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS MUST
13 INCLUDE A REVIEW OF EACH INCIDENT IN WHICH RESTRAINT WAS USED ON
14 A STUDENT DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF EACH ANNUAL
15 REVIEW PROCESS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROPERLY
16 ADMINISTERING RESTRAINT, IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL TRAINING NEEDS,
17 MINIMIZING AND PREVENTING THE USE OF RESTRAINT BY INCREASING THE
18 USE OF POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS, AND REDUCING THE
19 INCIDENCE OF INJURY TO STUDENTS AND STAFF. EACH ANNUAL REVIEW
20 PROCESS MUST INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

21 (I) ANALYSIS OF INCIDENT REPORTS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION
22 OF PROCEDURES USED DURING THE RESTRAINT, PREVENTATIVE OR
23 ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES ATTEMPTED, DOCUMENTATION, AND
24 FOLLOW-UP;

25 (II) TRAINING NEEDS OF STAFF;

26 (III) STAFF-TO-STUDENT RATIOS; AND

27 (IV) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING PHYSICAL

1 SPACE, STUDENT SEATING ARRANGEMENTS, AND NOISE LEVELS.

2 (c) NOT MORE THAN FIVE CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE USE OF
3 RESTRAINT ON A STUDENT, THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SHALL MAIL,
4 FAX, OR E-MAIL A WRITTEN REPORT OF THE INCIDENT TO THE PARENT OR
5 LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT. THE WRITTEN REPORT MUST BE
6 PLACED IN THE STUDENT'S CONFIDENTIAL FILE AND INCLUDE:

- 7 (I) THE ANTECEDENT OF THE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR, IF KNOWN;
- 8 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT;
- 9 (III) ANY EFFORTS MADE TO DE-ESCALATE THE SITUATION;
- 10 (IV) ANY ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF RESTRAINTS THAT WERE
11 ATTEMPTED;
- 12 (V) THE TYPE AND DURATION OF THE RESTRAINT USED;
- 13 (VI) ANY INJURIES THAT OCCURRED; AND
- 14 (VII) THE STAFF MEMBERS WHO WERE PRESENT AND STAFF
15 MEMBERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING THE RESTRAINT.

16 (4) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2017, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
17 PROMULGATE RULES ESTABLISHING A PROCESS BY WHICH A STUDENT OR
18 A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT MAY FORMALLY COMPLAIN
19 ABOUT THE USE OF RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION BY ANY EMPLOYEE OR
20 VOLUNTEER OF ANY SCHOOL OR CHARTER SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT
21 OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE
22 PROCESS MUST REFLECT THE COMPLAINT PROCESS FOR FILING A STATE
23 COMPLAINT UNDER THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
24 EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED.

25 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-30.5-528** as
26 follows:

27 **22-30.5-528. Institute charter schools - use of restraints on**

1 **students - certain restraints prohibited - reports and review process**

2 **definitions - rules.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
3 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

4 (a) "CHEMICAL RESTRAINT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH
5 IN SECTION 26-20-102 (2).

6 (b) "MECHANICAL RESTRAINT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
7 FORTH IN SECTION 26-20-102 (4).

8 (c) "PRONE POSITION" MEANS A FACE-DOWN POSITION.

9 (d) "PRONE RESTRAINT" MEANS A RESTRAINT IN WHICH THE
10 INDIVIDUAL BEING RESTRAINED IS SECURED IN A PRONE POSITION.

11 (e) "RESTRAINT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN
12 SECTION 26-20-102 (6).

13 (2) PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-20-111, THE USE OF A CHEMICAL,
14 MECHANICAL, OR PRONE RESTRAINT UPON A STUDENT IN AN INSTITUTE
15 CHARTER SCHOOL IS PROHIBITED.

16 (3) (a) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, EACH
17 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL REQUIRE ANY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER
18 WHO USES ANY TYPE OF RESTRAINT ON A STUDENT OF THE SCHOOL
19 DISTRICT TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT OF THE INCIDENT TO THE
20 ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL NOT LATER THAN ONE SCHOOL DAY
21 AFTER THE INCIDENT OCCURRED.

22 (b) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, EACH
23 SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ESTABLISH A REVIEW PROCESS, CONDUCT THE
24 REVIEW PROCESS AT LEAST ANNUALLY, AND DOCUMENT THE RESULTS OF
25 EACH REVIEW PROCESS IN WRITING. EACH ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS MUST
26 INCLUDE A REVIEW OF EACH INCIDENT IN WHICH RESTRAINT WAS USED ON
27 A STUDENT DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF EACH ANNUAL

1 REVIEW PROCESS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROPERLY
2 ADMINISTERING RESTRAINT, IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL TRAINING NEEDS,
3 MINIMIZING AND PREVENTING THE USE OF RESTRAINT BY INCREASING THE
4 USE OF POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS, AND REDUCING THE
5 INCIDENCE OF INJURY TO STUDENTS AND STAFF. EACH ANNUAL REVIEW
6 PROCESS MUST INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

7 (I) ANALYSIS OF INCIDENT REPORTS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION
8 OF PROCEDURES USED DURING THE RESTRAINT, PREVENTATIVE OR
9 ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES ATTEMPTED, DOCUMENTATION, AND
10 FOLLOW-UP;

11 (II) TRAINING NEEDS OF STAFF;

12 (III) STAFF-TO-STUDENT RATIOS; AND

13 (IV) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING PHYSICAL
14 SPACE, STUDENT SEATING ARRANGEMENTS, AND NOISE LEVELS.

15 (c) NOT MORE THAN FIVE CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE USE OF
16 RESTRAINT ON A STUDENT, THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SHALL MAIL,
17 FAX, OR E-MAIL A WRITTEN REPORT OF THE INCIDENT TO THE PARENT OR
18 LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT. THE WRITTEN REPORT MUST BE
19 PLACED IN THE STUDENT'S CONFIDENTIAL FILE AND INCLUDE:

20 (I) THE ANTECEDENT OF THE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR, IF KNOWN;

21 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT;

22 (III) ANY EFFORTS MADE TO DE-ESCALATE THE SITUATION;

23 (IV) ANY ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF RESTRAINTS THAT WERE
24 ATTEMPTED;

25 (V) THE TYPE AND DURATION OF THE RESTRAINT USED;

26 (VI) ANY INJURIES THAT OCCURRED; AND

27 (VII) THE STAFF MEMBERS WHO WERE PRESENT AND STAFF

1 MEMBERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING THE RESTRAINT.

2 (4) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2017, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
3 PROMULGATE RULES ESTABLISHING A PROCESS BY WHICH A STUDENT OR
4 A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT MAY FORMALLY COMPLAIN
5 ABOUT THE USE OF RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION BY ANY EMPLOYEE OR
6 VOLUNTEER OF ANY INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL. TO THE EXTENT
7 PRACTICABLE, THE PROCESS MUST REFLECT THE COMPLAINT PROCESS FOR
8 FILING A STATE COMPLAINT UNDER THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH
9 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS
10 AMENDED.


11 SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-109.1, add
12 (2)(a)(I)(L) as follows:

13 22-32-109.1. Board of education - specific powers and duties
14 - safe school plan - conduct and discipline code - safe school reporting
15 requirements - school response framework - school resource officers
16 - definitions - repeal. (2) Safe school plan. In order to provide a
17 learning environment that is safe, conducive to the learning process, and
18 free from unnecessary disruption, each school district board of education
19 or institute charter school board for a charter school authorized by the
20 charter school institute shall, following consultation with the school
21 district accountability committee and school accountability committees,
22 parents, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where
23 available, and, where appropriate, the community at large, adopt and
24 implement a safe school plan, or review and revise, as necessary in
25 response to any relevant data collected by the school district, any existing
26 plans or policies already in effect. In addition to the aforementioned
27 parties, each school district board of education, in adopting and

1 implementing its safe school plan, may consult with victims' advocacy
2 organizations, school psychologists, local law enforcement, and
3 community partners. The plan, at a minimum, must include the following:

4 (a) **Conduct and discipline code.** (I) A concisely written conduct
5 and discipline code that shall be enforced uniformly, fairly, and
6 consistently for all students. Copies of the code shall be provided to each
7 student upon enrollment at the elementary, middle, and high school levels
8 and shall be posted or kept on file at each public school in the school
9 district. The school district shall take reasonable measures to ensure that
10 each student of each public school in the school district is familiar with
11 the code. The code shall include, but need not be limited to:

12 (L) INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S POLICIES
13 FOR THE USE OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION ON STUDENTS, INCLUDING A
14 REFERENCE TO SECTION 26-20-111 AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
15 PROCESS FOR FILING A COMPLAINT REGARDING THE USE OF RESTRAINT OR
16 SECLUSION, AS SUCH PROCESS IS SET FORTH BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD
17 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-32-147.

18 

19 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
22 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
23 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
24 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
25 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
26 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.